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REPORTAGE ON EVENTS IN IRAN

FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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FBIS DAILY REPORT

Middle East & North Africa

Vol V No 054 Supp 066

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DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING U.S. RELATIONS, HOSTAGES

Bani-Sadr Interview

LD171523 Paris L'AURORE in French 14 Mar 80 p 3 LD

[Serge Chauvel-Leroux interview with Iranian President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr in Tehran: "Detention of Hostages Is Not A Trump Card for Iran"--date of interview not specified]

[Text] Tehran--On the eve of the first round of the Parliamentary elections, on which he is relying to consolidate his power, President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr did not conceal his great disappointment over the departure of the UN commission, set up to carry out an inquiry in Iran, before it had obtained any results. He stressed this theme in an interview which he granted us. He regards the final deadlock as the result of the multiplicity--some would say duplicity--of decisionmaking centers in the country--a multiplicity which he wants to remove above all else.

Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, who is becoming more like a president each day and is abandoning the "eternal student" style which is still to be found in his entourage--the president's supporters are mostly around 30 years old, educated in Western universities but attached to mastering a social situation which often has its roots in another century--is the first to deplore his country's isolation:

"The UN commission affair was a wasted opportunity," he said, "particularly in the media. I hope that the commission will return and resume its work. For me," he added, "the detention of the American hostages is not a trump card for Iran. It is more of a weakness since it prevents us taking action at international level to create an atmosphere in which we can follow a policy of national independence with Europe and all those in the world who are not under a superpower's influence. We cannot lose mankind's sympathy for the sake of keeping the American hostages. Public opinion is changing and most people in Iran have understood my argument on this question and I hope that the whole people will support me."

However, when he examined in retrospect the results obtained in the 19 days' work carried out by the commission he was discouraged: He thinks that the five international representatives did examine the former shah's actions and U.S. interference. However, the Americans and Iranians kept their initial positions. What about a resumption of dialog? The president of the Islamic Republic of Iran gave an evasive answer: It will depend on the foreign minister and Parliament. "However," he said, "we will have to wait and see what the composition of Parliament turns out to be."

Independence and Revolution

The change in tone in Ayatollah Khomeyni's successive speeches which raised false hopes at the end of last week has not, he said, made him change his position: "I met with the imam this morning and I told him that: He was in complete agreement with me as regards the danger of parallel decisionmaking centers. He told me he would tackle this point shortly in his new year message (the Iranian new year falls on 21 March). The country cannot withstand this paralysis for any longer. He must also reorganize the army and the administration."

For President Bani-Sadr the present anarchical situation is harmful to Islamic Iran in an area in which he willingly admits to being extremist: National independence. Hence his widely proclaimed concern about Soviet policy in this region of the world and his strong condemnation of the USSR's intervention in Afghanistan:

"We cannot remain neutral when a country's independence has been violated by another country," he said. "Furthermore we want to preserve our own security and independence from the influence of foreign powers."

However, he said, the USSR cannot manipulate the very course of the Islamic revolution which, he believes, has its source in "the people's culture."

France's Role

France can certainly play a major role in the spheres of high technology and sophisticated weapons, he said. "However, we think it is vital to maintain a situation of peace and disarmament in this region of the world. Should there be any risk of a conflict," he added, "the accepted theory now being carried out is to prepare the people to defend themselves. We do not reject sophisticated weapons but we are sure that once the people are armed and determined to defend themselves then nobody will dare to attack them. We must also learn to produce our own means of defense as soon as possible."

Islamic Iran does not want to play the part of gendarme in the Persian Gulf; there is not much hope of it being a factor in maintaining the status quo. "The distrust felt toward us in the Persian Gulf really only concerns the governments," President Bani-Sadr concluded, "but for the peoples we are a revolutionary point of reference which they can use to plan their own liberation."

Bani-Sadr on Hostages' Release

NC172020 Paris AFP in English 2005 GMT 17 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Algiers, March 17 (AFP)--Iranian President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr today reaffirmed that the American hostages in Tehran would be freed immediately if the United States agrees to the extradition of the shah, his trial and the recovery of his fortune.

In an interview with Algerian Radio and television, broadcast today, Mr. Bani-Sadr said: "If the United States responds favorably to our conditions, the hostages will be freed immediately." Washington had previously rejected these conditions.

Mr. Bani-Sadr also warned the U.S. against trying to interfere in Iran's internal affairs, saying such action would show the world that Iran has not violated international laws and customs. He said Iran is ready to (?establish relations) with the United States "based on equality and non-interference in internal affairs" if Washington agrees to such principles.

Speaking about Iran's relations with Gulf countries, Mr. Bani-Sadr stressed the need for solidarity among Islamic countries. "Islamic countries must constitute a complementary unit because (?the smaller countries cannot) face the super-powers alone," he said, adding that together Islamic countries have the framework for building a "great society" with a common culture and history. (?He said) Iran will work toward that goal, particularly (?emphasizing) Gulf countries.

Mr. Bani-Sadr acknowledged that reform is [words indistinct] expressed hope that the current Parliamentary elections would produce a legislature that would "support the state and work for reforms". He said it will be difficult to bring about the reforms. But if achieved, he said, "the revolution in Iran will be a success and an example to follow for all people suffering oppression and injustice and who aspire to their total independence, which in our eyes constitutes an independence from the East and the West." However, the first job is to succeed in Iran, Mr. Bani-Sadr said.

DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING MAJLES ELECTIONS

AFP Report

NC171545 Paris AFP in English 1531 GMT 17 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Tehran, March 17, (AFP)--Results from the first round of voting here in the capital for the future Islamic assembly will not be known until April 9 at the earliest, Abolqassem Sharifian, the head of the Tehran vote processing center, told AFP today.

The length of time needed to process and check the votes from the 2,140 polling stations in the capital could be as long as 25 days, he said. "It is the checking that takes the time," he noted.

Mr Sharifian's comments mean that, should a second round of voting be needed to decide any of the 30 Tehran seats in the 270-seat assembly, it will have to be held later than April 3, the date advanced by sources at the Interior Ministry here.

The processing centre, starting tomorrow, however,hopes to issue a series of bulletins showing who is leading the race for the capital's 30 seats in the new assembly. Mr. Sharifian, who has 120 staff members working round the clock, said that so far they had processed the results from fewer than 50 of the 2,140 polling stations here.

He said that it took his staff one day to process just 500 ballot cards. The problem stems from the fact that each Tehran voter had the right to name thirty out of 433 candidates and put them on their ballot form.

Election of 13 Deputies

LD180603 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0438 GMT 18 Mar 80 LD

[Excerpt] The governor of Tehran, in a contact with the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran a few minutes ago, announced that the following people have gained an absolute majority from 39 polling stations in Tehran. These deputies are in order of the number of votes obtained, out of the total votes cast:

NAME	Votes Obtained
Mehdi Bazargan	15,633
Fakhroddin Hejazi	15,157
Hasan Ebrahim Habibi	14,990
'Ali Golzari-Ghafuri	14,656
'Ali Akbar Mo'infar	13,506
Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i	12,874
Mohammad Javad Hojjati-Kermani	12,643
Mohammad Javad Bahonar	12,631
Hasan Ayat	12,580
A'zam Taleqani [Ayatollah Taleqani's daughter]	11,989
Hadi Ghaffari	11,915
Ezzatollah Sahabi	11,579
Seyyed Mohammad Kho'ini	11,354

Discussion of Election Problems

JN180852 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0815 GMT 18 Mar 80 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper BAMDAD publishes a report saying: President of the republic, Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, has stated that the objections raised against the elections by some political groups will be discussed tonight during the meeting of the Islamic Revolution Council.

The president said that he received strongly worded objections from some people regarding the methods adopted by certain political groups during the voting.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, Islamic Republic Party organ, says in this regard that 30 party candidates have scored definite victories out of the 60 candidates who are ahead of other candidates from various circles.

LE MONDE on First Election Round

LD171345 Paris LE MONDE in French 16-17 Mar 80 pp 1, 3 LD

[Eric Rouleau dispatch: "The Parliamentary Elections in Iran"]

[Text] Tehran--Sitting side-by-side on the sidewalk with their heads together, a man in a suit and his wife wrapped in the traditional chador were having some difficulty in filling in the voting slips which they then placed in the mobile ballot box placed on the roof of a stationary car in downtown Tehran. In a polling station in the northern area of the capital, some "bourgeois" comfortably seated around small tables were consulting each other before making their choice. An old man, half lying on the carpet in a mosque in the capital's poor southern district, whispered to a small boy while he carefully wrote the names of the candidates chosen by his grandfather who was clearly illiterate.

The Iranians have gone to a great deal of trouble to elect the Islamic Republic's first Parliament.

You needed a magnifying glass to decipher the names of the 433 candidates listed in small print on one side of the voting slip. The patience of a saint was required to write on the other side the 30 names of the candidates you wanted to be elected as Tehran's representatives to the National Assembly. It took exemplary discipline to stand in line, sometimes for hours, before being able to place the slip in the ballot box.

The illiterate usually obtained help from members of their family or friends. However those who were unable to come with their relatives were at the mercy of the "volunteers" who, in most cases, advised them to vote for the candidates of the "Islamic coalition" led by Ayatollah Beheshti's Islamic Republican Party. Some mullahs, using their spiritual influence, merely wrote down the names they deemed best in place of their flock. The clerical network worked well once again. However, many Interior Ministry inspectors seem to have acted with impartiality since around 100 people were arrested in Tehran alone for "hindering the freedom of the vote."

In the provinces where irregularities, pressures and violence were most widespread, the electoral procedure had to be suspended in several cities, especially in Kordestan. In particular a riot in Sanandaj ended with several pasdaran (Islamic militia) being killed.

Despite all that a large section of the population seems to have voted spontaneously for the Islamic Republican Party's [IRP] representatives who are better known to the public at large owing to the special treatment they have always enjoyed on radio and television. Other factors have favored Ayatollah Beheshti's party. For many people Imam Khomeyni's radio and television speech on the eve of the election was decisive.

"At first I intended to abstain," we were told by an agricultural engineer who was voting at a polling station in downtown Tehran, "but I changed my mind when I heard the imam explaining the importance of what was at stake." What choice did he make?" His reply was identical to that given by many voters we questioned: "As the imam advised us, I eliminated the right and the left who want to chain us either to the United States or the USSR."

This eliminates the "secular liberals" from all groups, who are reputed to be pro-Western, and all leftwing groups from the Tudeh Party to the Maoists, including the people's fedayeen (Marxist-Leninist) and the Mojahedin-e Khalq. The latter, who are progressive Muslims, were the biggest threat to the IRP and were the main target of the "orthodox Muslims" during the election campaign. Denounced as "Marxist atheists," the Mojahedin-e Khalq were frequently attacked by gangs armed with clubs. Some 1,000 of them have apparently been injured. Their leader Mas'ud Rajavi, who served a long prison sentence under the shah's regime, was described as "a SAVAK agent" on anonymous posters.

Therefore for many Iranians the IRP has a monopoly in defending "authentic Islam." The "front" which supports Mr Bani-Sadr--the committee for popular coordination with the president of the republic--could well have shared that honor with the IRP. However, the head of the state's party, which was recently formed, is practically unknown among the people, as we were able to discover in various polling stations. Indeed the mass media have never clearly explained the apparently insurmountable rivalry, not to say antagonism, between Bani-Sadr and Ayatollah Beheshti. For instance, a voter we met during our tour, who was full of praise for the president of the republic, had voted exclusively for IRP candidates....

The "Islamic Students'" Popularity

Nonetheless a section of the bazaar voted for the head of state's supporters. The owner of a small store told us why: "I voted for Mr Bani-Sadr for three reasons: He alone is capable of eliminating the many centers of power, of reviving the economy and ridding us of the 'Islamic students' in the U.S. Embassy who are stirring up agitation and anarchy."

An entirely different story is to be heard in the shantytowns in southern Tehran. The "Islamic students" who are very popular are regarded here as the sole representatives and defenders of the revolution, the most faithful supporters of the "imam's line," in other words of "authentic Islam." Contrary to what might be expected, the Tehran proletarians do not vote for the left. They are nationalists and regard the progressive parties as being foreign puppets." For them Islam, Imam Khomeyni's Islam, has all the virtues: It is both "anti-capitalist," "anti-imperialist," and favorable to the "mostaz'afin taking power." The clergy will bring about a more just and fraternal world. Who embodies this noble ideal better than the IRP?

If a large number of IRP candidates succeed, as some observers expect, in being elected in the first ballot with the absolute majority required, the final victory of Ayatollah Beheshti's party will be sealed. Indeed the procedure drawn up for the second round of the election has been designed to confirm and extend the success of one large party at the expense of the minority parties.

The effects of such a victory would be incalculable. Not only would the IRP probably try to neutralise President Bani-Sadr, whose constitutional powers are particularly limited, but it would also be much more indulgent toward the "Islamic students" whose anti-American struggle it has always supported. In that case the crisis in relations between Tehran and Washington over the hostages would be likely to go on indefinitely.

Qotbzadeh on Hostages, Elections

LD171605 Tehran BAMDAD in Persian 13 Mar 80 pp 1, 3 LD

[Unattributed report: "Qotbzadeh: Interests of Country, Nation Demand General Amnesty"]

[Excerpt] In an interview with BAMDAD, Revolution Council member and Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh explained his views on the difficulties in connection with the commission of inquiry, state security, the Revolution Council, the elections, a general amnesty and the Nowruz [new year] holidays.

On the subject of the commission of inquiry, Qotbzadeh said: "At present, the question of whether or not the commission should return is of secondary importance; the first problem is our domestic situation. In my view, until we put this in order and stop the political strategems being employed by one group against another, we have no chance of succeeding at the international level. The main point is that, during the work of the commission of inquiry, it was falsely represented that no trust could be placed in the words or undertakings of the Iranian Government, which was a most unwelcome development.

"Similarly, counterrevolutionaries and those who wittingly or otherwise act in accordance with their policy harbor the vain thought that 'power' does not exist. These conditions will aid political insecurity and increasingly weaken us in our efforts to oppose the foreign onslaught, whether this is of a political or economic nature.

"Therefore, before we ponder the failure or the success of the commission of inquiry we should think about our own failure or success. Let us evaluate this topic. When I speak about 'ourselves' I do not mean only the government; there is also the revolution.

"As regards our friends who think that, by confronting the Revolution Council and those in charge of state affairs, they are creating an allied front, or showing their muscles, I must tell them that they do not enjoy an atom of social or historical recognition, and that they have not even read their history. They should know that, in the natural life of a community, general unrest and efforts to fool the people will be shortlived, and when the community subsequently opens its eyes and perceives that it has been fooled, it will deal some heavy blows against those responsible. Those who think that they are at the zenith of their power should be assured that they will fall as quickly as they rose.

"A look at what has happened recently and the people's reaction to unwarranted attacks on government organs will show that, as the famous saying goes, you can fool some of the people all of the time but not all of them all of the time. The success of our revolution, therefore, is bound up with our being in harmony and united, not in the prolongation of power strategems."

Question: As regards the issue of the commission of inquiry, you were accused of "compromise," that is, deviation from the direction of the revolution.

Answer: The accusation of compromise is made by those who have been dependent on foreign countries all their lives, by those who are ideologically dependent and who are political slaves and social parasites. If I were out for compromise, I would have come to terms with them. My main problem is that America's agents (the deposed shah) regard me as an agent of the KGB, while the Soviet Union regards me as a CIA agent. Fortunately, what has always been in evidence throughout my life is that I have never submitted to force, or compromised with any government or with a party which favored other governments. For me it has always been Islam and Iran, and I will never submit to blackmail or political maneuvering.

Question: Following protests recently at the revolutionary prosecutions department, the issue of the courts and how they function has again arisen. What are your views on this?

Answer: There is a lot I want to say and I have many complaints, concerning the Revolution Council, the Komitehs and the state of the poor foundation across the country, as well as the holy war for reconstruction. I have decided that from now on I will not keep silent but will speak out. In this connection, bearing in mind that these organizations have performed useful services, there have indeed been numerous instances of injustice in this country since the success of the revolution (following which the dimensions of their services were considerably enlarged). Unfortunately, their ever-increasing persecution of the people outweighs their revolutionary progress.

For this reason the interests of the country and the nation demand that a general amnesty be granted to protect those genuine, oppressed people who believe in the Islamic revolution, and also so that the people as a whole should be free from further persecution. We should no longer be concerned that in so doing there are a few who may escape punishment.

There are thousands of people outside the country today who are experiencing the bitter taste of estrangement from Iran in a foreign environment. I can perhaps feel the bitterness of that very keenly, and I hope that they will no longer be outcasts.

There are also hundreds of thousands of people within the country who tremble in fear day and night that their reputation and property may be threatened by someone or other on some legal Islamic or revolutionary pretext, while in fact there is some underlying personal and private ulterior motive at work. It is their peace of mind that I seek and desire. Moreover, now that we are on the threshold of the new year and on the verge of stabilizing the country's legal and democratic institutions, we require the creation of an atmosphere permeated by mutual understanding and devoid of ulterior motive and the attendant ills; where there is peace of mind, love, affection; in particular--more than anything else--where people's reputation and honor are safe, since if they are not, then our legal institutions will not be able to carry out their Islamic, national and human duties.

Question: Now that the elections to the Consultative Assembly are the topic of discussion, particularly the issue of whether or not they should be held in two stages, what is your view on this?

Answer: I have never agreed with the elections being held in two stages, given present conditions. However, since the Revolution Council decided on this, ethics, the feeling that I should cooperate and the principle of joint responsibility necessitate that I accept responsibility for this alongside the other Revolution Council members. Nevertheless I will endeavor, both as an individual and as a member of the Revolution Council, to raise the matter in the council at the earliest opportunity, perhaps tonight, and if possible I will decisively raise the issue of the suspension of the elections.

OIL, GAS DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED, DISCUSSED

Gas Talks With Soviets

JN181005 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0815 GMT 18 Mar 80 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] All the papers publish reports on the suspension of gas exports to the Soviet Union, following difficult and long talks with the Soviet side on the amendment of prices.

Reporting on this topic, BAMDAD says: Iran has suspended its gas exports to the Soviet Union and the negotiating delegation left Tehran for Moscow last night. Oil Minister Mo'infar stated after the last round of negotiations that Iran and the Soviet Union were unable to reach agreement on the amendment of the prices of gas exported to the Soviets. Following the suspension of the talks, we issued instructions to stop oil pumping. The decision was implemented last night.

The newspaper BAMDAD quotes president of the republic Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, commenting on these developments, as saying: The talks were suspended because the Soviets insisted on freezing any Iranian suggestion or demand for a price increase. The Soviets buy a cubic meter of our natural gas at a price of 60 cents, at a time when the price of gas in international markets exceeds $4.00. Our proposal was around this price, but they rejected this increase and insisted on the price of $2.20. We cannot offer gas free of charge and are determined to maintain our independence.

During the talks, we told the Soviets that we sell gas as an independent state. The losses we incur as a result of the gas sale agreements that the previous regime concluded with the Soviets amout to $131 million annually. This is unacceptable.

BBC on Failure of Talks

TA180635 London BBC World Service in English 0600 GMT 18 Mar 80 TA

[From "Newsdesk"]

[Text] A long established trade arrangement between Iran and the Soviet Union appears to have ended. Lengthy talks on the sale of Iranian gas are said to have broken down after both sides failed to agree on the price of gas exports. From Tehran, Alex Brody:

[Begin Brody recording] The talks have been going on for a week, and they appear to have broken down four times. This time, according to Iran's president and foreign minister, the breakdown is final. They both said the Soviet negotiators had left for home. Throughout the talks there has been silence from the Soviet delegation and a reiterated statement of take our price or leave it from Iran. The price Iran was asking was five times what the Soviet Union had paid before. Apparently the Russians had offered three and a half times the price but Iran would not compromise.

The Soviet Union is Iran's only customer for gas, but Iranian Oil Minister 'Ali Akbar Mo'infar has already said Iran's price is in line with the world market, and if that price was not met, Iran would use the gas at home and burn off the surplus.

Iran would have got considerable income from the deal and the Soviet Union--it needs Iranian gas to feed its southern provinces. They have suffered shortages since supplies were cut. Under the shah, Iran sold some 10 billion cubic meters a year to the Soviet Union. Last year that went down to 3 billion and, according to economic observers, in the last few weeks it has gone down to virtually nothing, the pipeline having suffered an explosion and a landslide.

Although an exporter of gas, the Soviet Union apparently is not able to supply enough to its southern provinces and agreement to get this gas from nearby Iran through a new pipeline has fallen through. Iran cancelled most of that same pipeline. [end recording]

Mo'infar on Talks

LD181122 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Mar 80 LD

[Text] The delegation which came to Iran from the USSR to negotiate gas prices has left Iran before reaching any conclusion. In connection with this issue Iran's gas exports to the USSR have been stopped and at present gas is not exported to the USSR.

According to our energy correspondent, following the arrival of the Russian delegation in Iran and the continuation of negotiations with Iranian experts and the minister of oil on the price of Iranian gas exports to the USSR and Iran's proposals for the price increase the delegation did not agree to Iran's proposed price and left Iran. According to our correspondent, Iran's proposed price was d164.50 for 1000 cubic meters. The USSR would have accepted 112.60 dollars, the difference between two prices being about 40 percent. Our correspondent adds: the reasoning of the Russian delegation is that at present there are no buyers for Iran's gas and it is logical that Iran should agree with the price proposed by the USSR. The minister of oil told our reporter the price suggested by the USSR differs from the price proposed by Iran by about $52 for 1000 cubic meters of gas, considering the international price and the free market price. This cannot be accepted by us. He said: Unfortunately, gas was sold to the USSR very cheaply and although the Russians have agreed to a price three and one-half times as much as they used to pay at the time of the deposed shah, we have announced quite clearly that we are prepared to sell gas to the USSR only if they treat us as an independent state and pay us the right price. Otherwise, we can easily forget our income from gas exports and compensate for the loss by increasing the price of our crude oil exports by less than 50 cents per barrel. Finally, the minister of oil once again reminded our correspondent: If we are not able to sell our gas at our own price we will study long-term projects to supply gas to all the regions of the country and we will burn the surplus gas.

BANI-SADR DISCUSSES REORGANIZATION OF ARMED FORCES

LD171248 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Mar 80 LD

[Statement issued by Dr Bani-Sadr, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, to personnel of the Islamic Republic Army--read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, this is to inform all Islamic Republic Army personnel:

1. In my program, presented to the Iranian people, I referred to a reorganization of the army, aimed at creating an independent and Islamic Army, as a fundamental and urgent issue. Consequently, I want the necessary plans to be drawn up as soon as possible and prepared for implementation;

2. Implementation of plans must occur in a calm atmosphere and army discipline maintained;

3. Any step which may lead to disruption of order and discipline in the army is considered to be a counterrevolutionary act as well as a plot aimed at frustrating reorganization, which will maintain order in the army;

4. Dismissed personnel are not authorized to visit military sites;

5. The people must know that should individuals in military uniform or as a member of the military form a gathering in the streets or any place, this would be considered as insubordination or meant as a plot;

6. Army personnel must remember that their commanders cannot remain indifferent to their mistakes and self-interest attitudes. Consequently, should one or more resort to insubordination or action outside the normal military duties they would be severely dealt with. In all cases where military discipline is disrupted the public would be informed and the offender would be punished at his place of duty.

I am sure that those who seriously adhere to a true reorganization of the army would themselves resist any provocation and forcefully establish order and discipline in all bases, without there being any need for the nation to avenge itself.

[Signed] President and Commander in Chief Abolhasan Bani-Sadr.

QOM CITY COUNCIL ISSUES STATEMENT ON WATER SHORTAGE

LD172202 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 17 Mar 80 LD

[Text] On the order of Imam Khomeyni, leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, Ayatollah Shahaboddin Eshraqi today went to Qom to investigate the stoppage of the water supply to Qom. The water supply has been cut due to a technical fault in the water pipes and to the floods. The following statement has been issued by the Qom city council in connection with the stoppage of the drinking water supply and put at the disposal of the PARS NEWS AGENCY:

In His almighty's name. Owing to a rise in the water level of the Qom River, nine wells situated along the course of the river have been destroyed and their pipes washed away. Therefore, in order to alleviate the shortage of drinking water, assistance was received from the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran so that this problem can gradually be tackled in places which are not supplied with water, and so that private wells can soon be connected to the main water network with the persistent effort of the water authority officials and with the cooperation of the noble people of Qom. For this reason, we ask the honorable people of Qom, at this critical juncture, to co-operate with the water authority. We request them not to pay attention to the lies spread by counterrevolutionary elements, for the water authority is always in the service of the people.

[Signed] The Qom city council.

REPORTAGE ON OFFICIALS' RESIGNATIONS, LEADERS' REACTION

Bani-Sadr Address to University Board

LD171214 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Mar 80 LD

[Text] According to the central news bureau, President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, in a letter addressed to Tehran University managing board, asked it to continue its work. The letter, addressed to the provisional managing board of the university, says: As pointed out in the 22 December 1979 letter of the Revolution Council of the Islamic Republic and reiterated at a 3 March meeting held between various supervisors of the colleges and Tehran University departments, the president, and the minister of culture and higher education, the gentlemen's withdrawal under the present sensitive and criticial conditions in the country would not be in the interest of the Tehran University. Therefore, the Revolution Council insists that the gentlemen continue with their administration of the university, while maintaining their peace and mind and enjoying all the authority the existing university regulations provide them. They can rest assured that the endeavors made by them and their colleagues are being appreciated.

We hope that the existing minor and general problems in the administration of universities will be resolved through consistent cooperation of all concerned and that by the approval of the law giving independence to universities, which will be introduced shortly, the existing problems will be drastically reduced.

Bandar 'Abbas Governor's Resignation

JN171556 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1535 GMT 17 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Tehran, 17 March--The evening newspaper KEYHAN reported today that Bandar 'Abbas Governor Mortaza Bazargan has submitted his resignation to Iranian officials.

It is believed his resignation is connected with the riots staged by students in the province recently and the clashes between the government guards and citizens.

Rejection of Foruhar's Resignation

LD180850 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0830 GMT 18 Mar 80 LD

[Text] According to PARS, Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, has not accepted the resignation of Daryush Foruhar, minister without portfolio and a member of the special delegation to Kordestan. Daryush Foruhar had handed in his resignation from his posts because of the violations of election regulations.

According to the PARS reporter, in this connection Imam Khomeyni's bureau has issued the following statement: In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Mr Daryush Foruhar's resignation has not been accepted by Imam Khomeyni, the leader of revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. His great eminence the imam said: Foruhar is still supported by me and should continue his work.

[Signed] Imam Khomeyni's bureau, Qom, 18 March 1980.

VIOLENCE, DISORDER REPORTED, DISCUSSED

Attack on Oil Supervisor

LD181134 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Mar 80 LD

[Text] The Ministry of Oil announced that the supervisor of the country's refineries was attacked by three employees of the NIOC who claimed to be representatives of the workers and was wounded while inspecting Abadan oil refinery on 16 March.

The minister of oil today in a talk described this kind of action as the continuation of instigations and conspiracies which started some time ago in the oil industry, and especially in the Abadan refinery. He said the ultimate goal of these people is to divest the government appointed managers of their powers and to shut down the oil industry. The minister of oil added: Orders have been issued to the effect that the attackers should be immediately dismissed and their dossiers be submitted to a court. He said: At present the matter is being followed by the Office of the Public Prosecutor of Abadan. The counterrevolutionaries have now adopted the guise of supporters of Islam and defenders of the interests of Iranian workers are attempting any deceit and conspiracy and resort to any means to disturb the discipline of the oil industry on which the economic livelihood of the country depends, in order to create problems in the smooth running of this huge industry. They are not aware that the noble workers of the oil industry severely resist any kind of anarchy and enjoy the support of the revolutionary Muslim nation of Iran, which is aware of the importance of the oil industry, will put an end to this kind of insubordination and will nip any conspiracy in the bud.

Khuzestan Bridge Blown Up

JN181054 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0925 GMT 18 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Tehran, 18 March--Unidentified men blew up a bridge last night in (Dasht-e Azadegan) in Arabistan [Khuzestan]. The newspaper AZADEGAN reports today that the Iranian Government Revolution Guards clashed with the armed group but does not give further details on the incident.

On Saturday, the city of Andimeshk was the scene of bloody clashes between well over 4,000 unemployed graduates and the government guards. A total of 2 citizens were killed, 60 others wounded and 40 more arrested.

Casualties in Andimeshk Incidents

LD171752 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Mar 80 LD

[Text] According to a central news bureau report, the governor of Dezful, in a telephone conversation with the Voice and Profile of Iran of Ahvaz at 1730 today, described the situation in Andimeshk as calm. He added: The problem of the unemployed is being tackled with the measures that are underway.

The governor of Dezful once again emphasized that the number of those killed in the Andimeshk incidents was two, and he strongly denied all rumors conflicting with this.

Disturbances in Kordestan

NC141214 Paris AFP in English 1153 GMT 14 Mar 80 NC

[Nick Phythian report]

[Excerpts] Tehran, March 14 (AFP)--Kurdish nationalists reportedly killed five Revolution Guards attempting to take people to vote as Iranians cast ballots today for their first Islamic Parliament.

A spokesman of the banned Iranian Kurdistan Democratic Party said in the Kurdistan capital Sanandaj that the clash took place in Qorveh east of there.

The Interior Ministry banned voting in at least six Kurdish towns including Sanandaj because the presence of armed nationalists allegedly restricted voters' freedom of choice.

In Sanandaj, citizens were staging a hunger strike in the town's main mosque. But in some other towns, voting apparently was taking place despite the ban because local officials had not been instructed to enforce it.

The hunger strikers planned to attend a funeral later today for a man killed in a clash with Revolutionary Guards near Kamyaran south of Sanandaj yesterday and a member of the Marxist-Leninist Komiteh Kurdish nationalist party allegedly executed there by militia supporting the central government. Eight Revolution Guards and militiamen were said to have been killed in the fighting near Kamyaran.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED, DISCUSSED

Iraqi Military Rebellion

JN161014 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0810 GMT 16 Mar 80 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "A Rebellion in Al-Basrah Military Camp," the newspaper JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI quotes its correspondent in Kuwait as saying that several Iraqi officers and soldiers in the Al-Basrah military camp have rebelled and shouted slogans through loudspeakers demanding the immediate release of Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir as-Sadr.

The paper says that the latest reports mention that the Ba'thist forces encircled the camp, cutting all communications between the camp and the outside. Al-Basrah citizens are trying to help their besieged fellow military brothers by various means, while Ba'thist forces are patrolling all parts of Iraq.

The paper adds: The Ba'thist regime fears that the rebellion will spread to other units and camps at a time the Iraqi Revolution has entered a new stage, with the infiltration of Zionist elements in the ruling Ba'th Party's institutions and rumors about the presence of U.S. military experts from U.S. intelligence in the Iraqi security department.

Ambassador's Meeting With Khomeyni

LD171137 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Mar 80 LD

[Text] According to the PARS NEWS AGENCY, Hojjat ol-Eslam Do'ai, Iranian ambassador to Baghdad, has returned home. He held a meeting with Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution, today at his residence.

Afghan Mojahedin Capture Cities

LD171200 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Mar 80 LD

[Text] According to the Central News Bureau of the Voice and Profile in Iran in Zahedan, the Afghanistan Party committee in Zahedan has reported that, on the basis of a dispatch from the party's correspondent in Nimruz Province, Afghanistan Party Mojahedin raided Lukhi on 10 March and in the ensuing fierce battle, occupied it. The correspondent of Afghanistan Islamic Party [as heard], also reported that as a result of the occupation of the city by the Islamic Afghanistan Party mojahedin, 250 types of arms, 1 antiaircraft gun, several armored tanks and 60,000 rounds of ammunition were captured by the mojahedin. As a result of the clashes, 6 pro-Karmal regime supporters were killed and 32 more, including their commander, were captured. One mojahedin is reported to have been martyred.

In another raid launched by Islamic Afghanistan Party mojahedin against (Khatri) city in [province name indistinct], the city was taken by the party supporters. The party's mojahedin managed to seize a considerable quantity of arms and ammunition.

Afghan Revolutionaries' Statement on Fighting

JN180744 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 18 Mar 80 JN

[Text] The Afghan Muslim revolutionaries announced yesterday that they inflicted heavy losses on Afghan Government forces during fierce clashes between the two sides in three Afghan provinces.

A statement issued in Islamabad by the National Front for the Liberation of Afghanistan said that the Muslim revolutionaries launched an attack on an Afghan military base in the district of Paktia. As a result of this attack, 50 government soldiers were killed and many others were injured. Two revolutionaries were killed and nine others were injured.

The statement said that the revolutionaries are still besieging the base. The statement added that another group of the National Afghan Liberation Front's fighters attacked a government military base in Konarha killing a large number of government forces. The revolutionaries captured 75 soldiers and seized their weapons. The statement also added that the Muslim fighters killed and wounded a large number of the Afghan Government forces in another clash between the two sides, in the district of Konarha.

In another development, the Afghan Islamic revolutionary movement issued a statement yesterday that was published in Peshawar, Pakistan, announcing that since the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, Soviet air raids on populated areas have left 40,000 citizens dead, including a large number of women and children, and 300,000 homeless, after they left their homes.

Montazeri Reception of Palestinian Writer

JN162154 Tehran International Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 16 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Munir Shafiq, a well-known Palestinian writer and intellectual who came to Tehran to hold talks with Iranian officials on the unification of international liberation movements, has met with Ayatollah Montazeri in Qom. They held talks on the affairs of international liberation movements. Ayatollah Montazeri said that preparations must be made for a demonstration of 20 million Muslims to be held at an appropriate time to liberate Palestine and Jerusalem.

Munir Shafiq said that the Iranian Revolution in Iran has influenced the people inside Israel. He said that a group has been formed under the name "the followers of Imam Khomeyni's policy." He added that about 20,000 people have joined the group in the lands occupied by Israel and even in the very heart of Tel Aviv.

He explained that the group has begun to organize marches and demonstrations in order to liberate all the Palestinian soil. These people have been shouting "Khomeyni, Khomeyni, God is great" and "We will triumph" among spectators in sports stadiums. This group has begun to turn sports activities into political gatherings. Consequently, Israel has begun to be deeply worried because of this revolutionary movement.

PLO Denial of Funding

LD171248 Kuwait KUNA in English 1113 GMT 17 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Kuwait, March 17 (KUNA)--A prominent Palestinian leader categorically denied Monday a British report claiming that Iran was paying the PLO two dollars a barrel royalties on oil sales and described it as part of an anti-PLO Zionist propaganda campaign.

The official, Khalid al-Hassan, member of al-Fatah Central Committee, said that Iran has not so far given any material assistance to the Palestinian revolution "despite the belief that this assistance will be forth coming and without strings".

Al-Hassan was commenting on a report by THE SUNDAY TIMES yesterday which claimed that the money paid by Iran was in return for PLO "operational services". The paper did not elaborate on the alleged royalty deal.

In his statement published by AL-WATAN newspaper Monday, the Palestinian official said there was no deal between Iran and the PLO "but there are political and struggle relations resulting from the Iranian stand hostile to Israel, Zionism and the American policy". He added that the PLO is being presently subjected "to a wild propaganda campaign directed by the Zionist circles and fed by the Jewish money and influence." Al-Hassan affirmed that the PLO would not accept any assistance from whatever source if it were tied to strings and conditions.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian leader told AS-SIYASAH newspaper that the world arena will witness a heated political battle during the next few weeks because of differences over the possibility of the U.N. adopting a new resolution on the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. He added that the PLO would launch a new political drive to obtain an open and official recognition from the world community for its status as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Al-Hassan ruled out the possibility of a radical change in the American administration's policy towards the PLO following the forthcoming Presidential elections. People who think that any new American leadership could make a genuine change in the American mentality are deceiving themselves, he stressed.

Arabian Peninsula Organization's Statement

JN141325 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1010 GMT 14 Mar 80 JN

["Text" of statement issued by the Islamic Revolution Organization in the Arabian Peninsula on 13 March, place not given--read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the defender of the oppressed and scourge of tyrants. She said: Kings, when they enter a country, despoil it and make the noblest of its people its meanest; thus do they behave. [Koranic verse]

Subjugating people's souls and trampling their dignity is a natural policy practiced by those monarchs who, as the noble verse affirms, dominate the people illegally.

But why? It is because the oppressive monarch's primary concerns are the masses high morale, self-confidence and dignity, since when the people have self-confidence and high morale, they will begin to demand their rights and oppose the authorities' policy and conduct.

Indeed, it is this which the corrupt monarchies fear most. This is why they always attempt to trample the people's dignity and morale, oppress them and subject them to ignominy in order to prevent the people even from contemplating opposition and confrontation and to make them yield and be subjugated to the ruling authorities. This is the nature of monarchy, which is rejected by Islam. This is what our people in the Arabian Peninsula are suffering from under Al-Sa'ud rule.

Now that, following the success of the glorious Islamic Revolution and the surge of revolutionary Islamic awareness and sentiments and following the people's uprisings in most parts of the country--particularly holy Mecca and the heroic eastern part--the people's morale is boosted and they have begun to regain their self-confidence. The hireling authorities are trying to subjugate the people's souls and undermine their prestige through imposing the so-called National Guard on the masses in order to provoke them.

In the eastern area, particularly the city of Al-Qatif and its suburbs, there are thousands of the so-called National Guard stationed there in order to impose an undeclared martial law on the country. Indeed, curfew is imposed from 2100 to 0600 and the guards patrol the streets in their military cars, even during the day. Whenever they come across a gathering of people, these guards hit them. The guards even penetrated the Al-Qatif secondary school and hit the innocent students. They attack the workers again and again while the workers are waiting to be transported to their places of work in order to earn their living. What is even uglier than this, the guards even attack the poverty-stricken peasants, hit them and disgrace them through dishonoring their families.

This is how the people live under the Al-Sa'ud government, which professes Islam and raises such slogans as "There is no God but God" on its flags and institutions.

The guards are recruited by the government from the deserts, where there is neither education, awareness nor culture. The government trains them to idolize the ruling family, while at the same time, sowing in their souls feelings of malice, rancor and vengeance toward the people in order to use these guards to confront the revolutionary masses when these masses rise to demand their rights and oppose the authority's policy.

O revolutionary masses, O heroic people in Al-Qatif and Al-Ahsa': The objective of these hostile practices by the non-national guard forces is to humiliate you and destroy your heroic character as revealed through the Muharram month uprising when clamorous revolutionary demonstrations were staged. You must disappoint them by means of sticking to your dignity and preserving your lofty morale because almighty God--as is mentioned in the Prophet's sayings--has permitted the believer to dispose with anything except one's dignity. God does not like the believer to humiliate himself. God almighty says: But honor belongs to God and his apostle, and to the believers; but the hypocrites know not. [Koranic verse]

Do you see, then, how God couples his honor with that of the believers? God is strong and honorable and the believers are also strong and honorable forever, despite the tyrants' schemes and the rulers' practices.

You should not remain silent over this deliberate humiliation, but must resist it in the following methods:

1. Continue writing slogans opposing the regime and its guards on walls, cars and various places, particularly government establishments. This will diminish the prestige of the authorities and raise the masses' morale.

2. Distribute the revolutionary leaflets and statements which expose the authority's practices. Also, encourage the citizens to resist and stand fast.

3. Challenge the authority's forces by means of directing blows against them. Where are the arms which you bought with your own funds and used during the Muharram upheaval? Where are the Molotov cocktails, which were very well-prepared by even women and children? Where are the bars of iron, wood and stones with which you frightened the authority's forces and inflicted heavy losses on them during the Al-Haram upheaval?

O Muhahid people, O heroic youth: Use all the primitive weapons in your hands in order to resist those aggressors, who were brought up on ignorance, spite and crime. Let the hypocrites and agents know that honor belongs to God and believers and that they are so contemptible that they cannot humiliate the revolutionary faithful masses. You must know that God is on your side and he can grant you victory.

May God grant success to our people so that they will continue along the path of revolution and struggle as well as the path of determination, patience and steadfastness in order to resist your oppressive enemies, who allowed what you tabooed, tabooed what you allowed and humiliated your worshippers. You are strong and honorable.

May the peace and blessings of God be upon our steadfast people in the Arabian Peninsula.

Signed: the Islamic Revolution Organization in the Arabian Peninsula.

Date: 26 Rabi'ath-Thani, 1400 Hegira. [13 March 1980]

Prince Fahd Congratulates Khomeyni

JN171758 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Mar 80 JN

[Text of cable of congratulations from Saudi Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud to Imam Khomeyni--date not given]

[Text] Your Eminence Ayatollah Khomeyni, may God keep you, Tehran. Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you. I was delighted to hear that you have left the hospital now that God has granted you good health. Thanks to God. I would like to congratulate you on your recovery. May God keep you from all harm.

[Signed] Your brother Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

Khomeyni Thanks Prince Fahd

JN171800 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Mar 80 JN

[16 March cable from Imam Khomeyni to Saudi Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud]

[Text] In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate, Your Excellency Saudi Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud:

I would like to thank you for your cable which we received on the occasion of our leaving hospital. I hope that under the protection of the magnanimous Islamic teachings, all the Muslims will be able to sever all kinds of subservient relations with world colonialism, particularly the bloodsucker U.S. Government. I hope that all Muslims will regain complete independence. Peace be upon you.

[Signed] Ruhollah Mosavi Khomeyni, 29 Rabi' ath-Thani, 1400 Hegira, corresponding to 16 March 1980.

King Khalid Message to Khomeyni

JN171753 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Mar 80 JN

[Cable to Imam Ruhollah Khomeyni from Saudi King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz--date not given]

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khomeyni, may God protect him. I was extremely delighted when Your Eminence left the hospital after recovering by God's grace. While thanking Almighty God for this, I implore Him to bestow upon you continued health and to protect you from all mishaps.

[Signed] Your brother, Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

Khomeyni Thanks King Khalid

JN171755 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Mar 80 JN

[Cable from Imam Khomeyni to King Khalid of Saudi Arabia--date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate, His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz: We appreciate Your Majesty's cable on the occasion of the improvement of my health.

We will be extremely delighted when colonialism--whether East or West--particularly the United States, the bloodsucker, is wiped out [words indistinct].

Denial of Deportation Rumors

JN171023 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 17 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Rumors are circulating in Lebanon that the Lebanese Government intends to deport the citizens of the Islamic Republic of Iran residing in Lebanon. Following a contact with the Iranian Foreign Ministry, the ministry denied these groundless rumors and affirmed that Iran's relations with Lebanon are good. The two countries are seeking to strengthen their fraternal relations, contrary to these tendentious rumors.

Discovery of Smuggled Weapons

GF161720 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 16 Mar 80 GF

[Text] Shiraz custom officers discovered 4 hunting rifles, 1 pistol and 2,159 bullets yesterday in a package that had been sent from the United States. The man who was to receive the package was arraigned in court after paying a cash fine.

NATIONAL VOICE OF IRAN REVIEWS CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

Majles Elections; 'Adaptable Liberals'

TA101125 [Editorial Report TA] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 7 March broadcast two commentaries, the first entitled: "The Consultative Assembly Must Reflect the Opinions of the Nation," which says:

The aim of the first elections to the Majles is not only the beginning of big electoral propaganda, a simple voting or the sending of a few representatives to the Majles. It is the question of electing the first representatives to the Consultative Assembly after the victory of the revolution, a Majles that reflects the opinions and desires of all the parties, all the people true to the revolution whether religious or non-religious.

The people expect that the elections to the parliament be carried out in such a way that ultimately a Majles allowing the realization of the revolutionary goals be formed. This Majles will put an end to all the exploitations of the people by a number of the former regime's supporters, all the bad deeds committed by the former regime's followers, and all hegemonic imperialism at the head of which stands American imperialism. This Majles should put an end to counterrevolution and support the workers, this vast creative force of the society. The president of the nation carries a great responsibility for the realization of all this. Any kind of disunity between different groups will pave the way for counterrevolutionary actions.

These days, while discussing the future of the Majles, some independent circles express various opinions. For example some stipulate the Majles, future success in the following of the president's path, but if the true imam's path is followed, then there is neither need for worry nor is the following of any other path necessary.

The president himself expressed his desire to participate in discussions regarding the future Majles elections owing to the fact that it is only if the Consultative Assembly is a center for the representatives of all the groups following the imam's path, that the Majles will be able to reflect the opinions of the revolutionary nation of Iran.

The first condition for cooperation with such a Majles is to be able to listen to and accept different, healthy and constructive opinions concerning the Iranian Revolution.

It must be pointed out that the sensitive question of the Majles elections is not only a question of relations between the Majles and the government or the president but of millions of Iranians so that unity of all the country's decision-makers, that is to say the masses of the people, the president and the government is of the utmost importance. Now that only a few days are left for the Majles elections, one of the most important tasks is putting an end to the accusations and propaganda coming from the Pentagon, the SAVAKists and the CIA.

The second, entitled, "The Adaptable Liberals, Supporters of Imperialism and (?Oppression) reads:

During a speech for the representatives of Islamic movements in the Mehdi Rezai hospital, the imam has said that the oppressed must defend their rights and not wait for the oppressors to give them their rights back. There is no such record in history where an oppressor has returned to the oppressed his rights. History shows as well that the oppressed toilers only while resorting to unity were able to regain their rights.

In Iran those who do not follow the imam's path are wrongly afraid of the worker's force, and struggle to destroy this oppressed force. These elements supported Bakhtiar or 'Ali Amini and used to cooperate with them. These Iranian imperialists do not even want to accept the truth that the victory of the Iranian revolution was achieved by the hard struggle of the Iranian nation and all its martyrs. They want to renew the friendship with the oldest enemy of Iran--bloodthirsty American imperialism and struggle with all their might against the true imam's path. It is for the safeguarding of their interests that these Iranian liberals have chosen the path of disloyalty to the Iranian Revolution.

Fortunately the true followers of the imam's path have discovered the true nature of these liberals and are able to prevent their satanic plans from materializing. The final victory belong to these toilers, followers of the imam's path.

Election Participation; UN Commission

TA122118 [Editorial Report: TA] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 12 March broadcast two commentaries, the first commentary, entitled, "Actively Participate in the Elections to the National Consultative Assembly," said:

On the threshold of the elections of the Consultative Assembly, the imam has demanded of the liberated nation that on this historic day they should all cast their votes and maintain their unity and solidarity. Since the revolution, supporters of the former regime have damaged the revolutionary gains at every available opportunity. In every election or referendum in the past year, counterrevolution, imperialist mercenaries and Zionists have expanded their provocations and conspiracies against the Iranian Revolution. Many times these elements have even resorted to bloody demonstrations. Today, on the threshold of the elections, these CIA forces do not sit with their arms folded but are busy plotting. Counterrevolution benefits from people's discontent and from some serious inadequacies in the electoral law and incites violent demonstrations in some corners of the country. These elements should be dealt with according to the imam's recommendations, and it is by actively participating in the elections that the nation will respond positively to the great imam.

The second commentary, entitled, "[Word indistinct] for Persistent Statements of Responsible Circles," said: The UN international commission investigating the former shah's crimes, after several days of studying documents and undeniable testimony, has left Iran. The students followers of the imam's path presented this commission with more than 185 documents proving the shameless U.S. policy of interference in the domestic affairs of Iran. The members of this commission were able to meet with the families of thousands of people who had suffered at the hands of the former shah's executioners with the direct help of U.S. and Israeli advisers.

What this commission was able to observe during its short stay in Iran was only a very small part of all the crimes the former regime committed with the support of its U.S. masters. But even these few undeniable proofs confirmed the numerous crimes of the former corrupt regime as well as interference of the United States in Iran, and convinced the members of the just demands of the Iranian nation. The members of this commission were so moved by all the testimony that grief could often be read on their faces. Who can remain indifferent after being confronted with so many documents relating torture and crimes?

The Iranian nation wants all the world, all the progressive humanitarians to be informed by these UN members of the crimes the former cruel regime committed with the support of bloodthirsty America over dozens of years. The Iranian nation justly demands that the United States end its support of the bloodthirsty former regime and also its illegal interference in the domestic affairs of Iran. The Iranian nation wants the United States to confess all its crimes committed in Iran. It wants the extradition of the ousted shah, this international gangster as well as all his plundered wealth to the heroic nation of Iran.

During the commission's work, once again the students followers of the imam's path proved their loyalty to the imam and his revolution as well as their uncompromising attitude in their continued struggle against bloodthirsty imperialist America. Whereas some high-placed circles of the revolution have shown a spirit of conciliation. The question of the commission members meeting the hostages and their being handed over to the Revolutionary Council has allowed (?imposters to make persistent statements). The recent anti-American demonstrations revealed the conciliatory spirit of some specific high-ranking officials. Along with the demonstrators slogans like death to bloodthirsty American imperialism, slogans like "death to the conciliators" could also be seen. The students followers of the imam's path believe that the Majles should deal with the hostage problem.

In any case, the commission investigating the former shah's crimes has left Iran and the Iranian nation hopes that the members of the commission will put the testimony about the former shah's crimes as well as about America's interference in the domestic affairs of Iran at the disposal and judgement of public opinion. Fortunately the majority of the Islamic Revolutionary Council acts according to the people's demands and follows the imam's path.

Candidate Qualifications; Conciliatory Elements

TA121527 [Editorial Report TA] The Clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 11 March broadcast two commentaries. The first entitled, "Which People Can Be the Representatives of the Nation," said:

The day of the election for the Iranian Consultative Assembly is approaching. Today everyone is asking the same question: "Who will be the representative of the people to the first Consultative Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the national republic of the Iranian nation?" The imam has stressed many times that the Iranian nation should elect representatives who are true to Islam and the country. The public must be extremely vigilant. The most important thing that should be taken into consideration regarding a future candidate is his political biography, the nature of his contact with the Iranian revolution and his cooperation or noncooperation with the former corrupt regime. So, the complete list of former regime collaborators must be published to prevent opportunists from being elected. Future candidates must prove their loyalty to the Iranian revolution and its gains. They have to fight former regime elements and be followers of the imam's path.

The second commentary, entitled, "Conciliatory Elements Have Dishonored Themselves," says:

Many contradictionary reports about the American hostages are being published by official circles that they have rightly aroused the concern of the Iranian nation. For example, it was falsely announced several times that official circles had alledgedly declared that the Revolutionary Council had unanimously decided to take over the American hostages from the students followers of the imam's path and to arrange a meeting between the hostages and the UN international commission. The deputy-minister of education, who is a member of the Revolutionary Council, declared during an interview that the majority of the members of the Revolutionary Council are against taking charge of the hostages. This proves that the public was misinformed by some elements about the Revolutionary Council's decision.

The publication of such rumors has caused people from all over the country to rise in defense of the path of the imam. By demonstrations they have once more expressed their support for the student followers of the imam's path and condemned the policy of conciliatory elements. The imam has often warned the Iranian nation to be vigilant and maintain its unity of speech and action against the enemies of the nation. The imam has once more declared that the question of the hostages must be discussed and solved by the Islamic Consultative Assembly.

It has again been learned that some high-placed officials are operating contrary to the imam's path. Rumors from abroad say that there have been secret contacts between some Iranian officials and high-ranking U.S. officials in order to find a suitable and concilitory solution for the release of the American hostages. The meeting of George Hamilton, a representative of President Carter, with an Iranian official in Paris is one of these meetings for the release of the hostages. After the victory of the revolution high-ranking officials are no longer able to have secret meetings with foreign officials while keeping the nation uninformed. The imam himself has declared that the people should have a hand in political affairs. It is not clear whether the Iranian president or the Revolutionary Council were informed of these contacts with U.S. imperialists officials. If they had indeed been informed, then why was the public not informed?

In Iran there are those who wish the establishment of friendly relations with the United States and do not desist from publishing false rumors, which may damage the image of some members of the Revolutionary Council. The vigilant nation of Iran cannot be cheated. The Iranian nation demands the extradition of the executioner shah and his wealth to Iran. They want the U.S. Government to confess its complicity in the former shah's crimes. They want America to guarantee that she will not interfere in the domestic affairs of Iran in the future. These are the demands of the Iranian president as well. These are also the conditions for the release of the hostages, and the imam himself has often confirmed it. Without any doubt at all the efforts of some elements to mislead the people from the true path of the imam will meet with defeat.

Land Reform; Anti-Imperialism

TA132005 [Editorial Report TA] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian at 1730 GMT on March 13 braodcast two commentaries.

The first, entitled "The Solution of the Agrarian Problem Is Collateral to the [word indistinct] of the Big Landlords," said: Reza Esfahani, deputy agriculture minister, recently declared that after the Majles elections loans will be given to farmers. During the corrupt regime of the Pahlavi dynasty loans were not given to oppressed farmers. Even if such loans were distributed, the poor farmers did not receive a single dinar of this money, and it was only the feudal landlords who benefited. After the victory of the revolution and during the temporary government of Dr Bazargan the abovementioned situation did not change.

After the dismissal of the government of the liberals serious measures were taken for helping the farmers and giving loans was one of them. In order to solve the problems of the oppressed Iranian farmers, the question of land distribution must be solved. But unfortunately some high-placed officials have not cooperated with the Ministry of Agriculture in this matter.

The second commentary, entitled "We Have to Act Decisively in the Struggle Against Imperialist America," said: During these sensitive days the imam has invited the Iranian nation to unite and thwart the plots of the lackeys of the White House as well as the plans of the conciliators. The imam demands that the struggle against U.S. imperialism, this number one enemy of the Iranian nation, continue until total victory.

After the overthrow of the former corrupt regime, the United States lost its interests in Iran and the area. In order to regain these lost interests, America continues to use military threats, economic sanctions or former regime supporters against the revolutionary gains. American military preparations against Iran are increasing every day. The United States has dispatched naval forces and ships, which have reached the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean, thus tightening the maritime blockade against Iran.

The U.S. propaganda machinery, advised by bellicose Zionist circles, tries to relate all these vast military preparations to the question of the U.S. hostages in Tehran. But as even reliable sources in the U.S. press have announced, the CIA and the Pentagon had prepared plans against Iran before the hostage question. So we can see that the recent crisis between Iran and the United States is not over the hostage problem but that American imperialism is trying to install a regime in Iran that is acceptable.

A short time ago, an American magazine wrote that from 27 [Aban] to 5 [Aazar] of 1358 [approximately 19-27 Nov 1979] a secret meeting between Carter, Brzezinski and Vance was called at Camp David, and the only question discussed in this meeting was U.S. military intervention in Iran and when it would take place. Brzezinski said that the Iranian forces, that support America will aid the United States and these will try to install a military regime in Iran. Carter declared that the regime of Khomeyni should be overthrown and that this is a separate matter from the question of the hostages. Being aware of this plot, the imam has invited the Iranian nation to fight until victory against U.S. imperialism.

Public Opinion on Imperialism

TA180653 [Editorial Report TA] The clandestine National Voice of Iran to Iran at 1730 GMT on March 17 broadcast the commentary entitled "Let Us Not Mislead Public Opinion From (?the Bloodthirsty Acts) of U.S. Imperialism," which said: While the imam always recommends the destruction of all remnants of U.S. imperialism, there are those in Iran who permanently struggle to mislead public opinion from this important goal of the Iranian Revolution. Particularly since the victory of the Afghan Revolution, these elements have multiplied their actions. Resorting to false reports fabricated by imperialist machinery, they try to mislead Iranian public opinion from the true danger facing this nation--U.S. imperialism.

American threatening activity against Iran has increased under the pretext of defending vital interests in the Persian Gulf, which is thousands of miles from that country, and it is dispatching a large number of offensive forces to the Persian Gulf area. The main goal of U.S. imperialism, by concentrating this large number of troops near Iranian territorial waters, is to threaten the countries of the region, especially the Islamic Republic of Iran.

It is quite evident that since the victory of the Iranian Revolution, U.S. imperialism has lost many interests both in Iran and the area. In order to regain its lost interests, U.S. imperialism does not desist from encouraging counterrevolution inside Iran. Many documents have been found proving that all antirevolutionary plots, all subversive acts against Iran were supported by the American CIA as well as U.S. imperialism. The Iranian nation must be vigilant to thwart these plots.

Fortunately the Iranian nation has recognized U.S. imperialism as its main enemy and follows the imam's recommendations in struggling against this foe. But unfortunately some serious officials regard all these U.S. military preparations as a move against the Soviet Union and not as a threat against Iran. The vigilant Iranian nation is very well aware of the fact that the Soviet Union, whether during the Iranian Revolution or after, has always supported the Iranian Revolution. Those who distort reality and "put a cloak over" the U.S. military preparations against Iran, are consciously or unconsciously working against the revolutionary as well as anti-imperialist path of the imam.

The Iranian nation should carry on its struggle until the final destruction of any U.S. imperialist trace from Iran.

Foreign Policy; Counterrevolution

TA142024 [Editorial Report TA] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 14 March broadcast two commentaries.

The first, entitled ("The Foreign Policy of Our Nation Needs a Constructive Transformation"), said: The Foreign Ministry can play an important role in thwarting the plans of the enemies of the Iranian nation. After the victory of the Iranian Revolution, American imperialism tried to call this revolution a bloodthirsty regime and strived to damage the revolutionary gains. The dangerous evident plots of American imperialism range from an economic blockade against Iran to the dispatch of naval forces to the territorial waters of Iran. In the days when Western reporters were expelled from Iran they wrote false reports regarding Iran. Some Iranian officials reacted to these false reports of imperialist or Zionist sources. The false report of ASSOCIATED PRESS on the alleged Soviet troop concentration on the Soviet-Iran border, which was denied by Moscow, served some officials in Iran to mislead public opinion from the true enemy of Iran, American imperialism. Iranian foreign policy must follow the path of the imam and his revolution.

The second commentary, entitled (?"Letting the Counterrevolution Run Free Is an Insult to the Martyrs of the Revolution"), said: In the Islamic Council of Ah'az message [words indistinct] this council addressing the student followers of the imam's path has asked (?why responsible officials do not insist) on the extradition of the former shah? Who except America and her lackeys is responsible for the (?dishonoring) of the students and the pretention that the documents found by the students are not very important. The Iranian nation after long and difficult struggles and after suffering numerous martyrs have overthrown the former regime. American imperialism and its mercenaries cannot accept the victory of the Iranian Revolution and is using all its forces to destroy the revolutionary gains. If counterrevolution had not been dealt with so [word indistinct] then the foes of the Iranian Revolution [words indistinct].

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